

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-23. (canceled)

24. (new) A draining unit for a maceration vat, comprising:

at least one elongated, profiled element having a plurality of spread-out holes;

said profiled element extending along an internal wall of the vat and forming a drainage channel together with the wall through contact at two longitudinal side edges;

said profiled element being interlocked with said wall at one of its side edges via a pivot connection adapted to pivot;

said profiled element being provided with at least one latching means adapted to lock said profiled element in a position with its two side edges resting against said internal wall so as to form the drainage channel; and

said profiled element being associated with a holding device able to retain said profiled element in a specific rotary open position about the axis of the pivot connection, in which the side edge of the element not joined by said pivot connection to said wall is located at a spacing from the wall.

25. (new) The draining unit according to claim 24, wherein the pivot connection includes at least two hinge devices aligned with each other and allowing, in addition to the pivoting movement, limited relative translational displacement between the profiled element and the wall of the vat in a longitudinal direction parallel with the pivoting axis.

26. (new) The draining unit according to claim 25, wherein each hinge device comprises a spindle interlocked with one of the side edges of the profiled element, and at least one hinge fixed rigidly on the wall of the vat; said spindle and said at least one hinge being mounted and extending so that they can slide a predetermined distance relative to each other.

27. (new) The draining unit according to claim 24, wherein the side edges of the profiled element are extended by inwardly folded shoulders forming two parallel bearing strips for said profiled element in a position in which said profiled element is turned down to form the drainage channel; the profiled element being shaped so that in the turned-down position, the profiled element defines a drainage channel of triangular, semi-circular, semi-elliptical or rectangular section by cooperation with the internal wall of the vat.

28. (new) The draining unit according to claim 24, wherein each holding device locks the element movably in an intermediate position between two rotary end positions about the axis of its pivot connection.

29. (new) The draining unit according to claim 26, wherein the spindle extends parallel with and at a spacing from the side edge to which it is rigidly connected by an interlocking bracket, and the hinge has an indentation extending from one of its end edges and parallel with its longitudinal direction, to receive the interlocking bracket through engagement of the bracket by translation.

30. (new) The draining unit according to claim 29, wherein the indentation is formed in a tubular wall of the hinge such that engagement of the bracket in the indentation corresponds to locking of the element in an intermediate rotary position of said element about the axis of its pivot connection, thereby forming a device for holding in rotation.

31. (new) The draining unit according to claim 29, wherein each hinge is associated with a stop means interlocked with the wall and located at a spacing from said hinge at the end edge of the hinge adjacent the indentation; said stop means limiting sliding displacement of the spindle/bracket assembly.

32. (new) The draining unit according to claim 31, wherein the stop means has a stationary base and a stop member mounted in or on the base and adjustable in its position, with removable locking, in the sliding direction of the spindle/bracket assembly; the stop member being adjustable in its position so as to prevent the spindle from sliding out of engagement with the hinge.

33. (new) The draining unit according to claim 29, wherein each profiled element is made or shaped in one piece, and said profiled element, in the position where it is turned down to form a drainage channel, cooperates at each of its longitudinal ends with a retaining clip fixed on the wall of the vat; each of said clips being in the form of a portion of profiled element, having a sectional shape substantially similar to that of the element and defining an end of the corresponding drainage channel together with the wall of the vat.

34. (new) The draining unit according to claim 33, wherein in the turned-down position the profiled element is assembled at one of its longitudinal ends with a first clip via a connecting member interlocked with said end and applied to and partly covering said first clip, and at its other longitudinal end with a second clip; the connecting member and first clip having cooperating assembly locations arranged facing each other when said other end is fitted into said second clip.

35. (new) The draining unit according to claim 24, wherein each latching means is formed by two members, one of which is interlocked with the profiled element, and the other of which is interlocked with the wall of the vat; the two members adapted to be inter-engaged to lock the profiled element in position and disengaged through translation of said profiled element in opposite directions.

36. (new) The draining unit according to claim 35, wherein each latching means comprises a plate fixed on the profiled element so as to be located in the drainage channel when the element is turned down against the wall of the vat, and having an indentation defining an eyelet, and an anchoring stud having a head, whose radial dimensions are larger than those of the eyelet; the profiled element being equipped with a plurality of regularly spaced plates designed to cooperate with a plurality of corresponding studs.

37. (new) The draining unit according to claim 24, wherein the profiled element is formed by two separate, aligned and adjoining component parts, in which the respective latching means are engaged and disengaged in opposite directions; the first of said parts having a profiled covering member bearing on and partly extending over the second part when the two parts are turned down against the wall of the vat, and defining the portion of drainage channel in the space separating the two parts in their latched positions.

38. (new) The draining unit according to claim 37, wherein the covering member has a sectional shape substantially similar to that of the two parts and is provided with a catch hole, and the second part is provided with a retractable locking finger at its end facing the first part; said hole and said finger being located in a mutually coincident configuration, enabling the finger to extend into or through the hole,

substantially with corresponding shapes, when the first and second parts are in their respective latching positions.

39. (new) The draining unit according to claim 37, wherein each of the two component parts, in its respective latched position, is engaged at its end opposite the end near the other part, below or in a retaining clip fixed on the wall; each of the clips being in the form of a portion of profiled element having a sectional shape substantially similar to that of said component parts, and defining an end of the corresponding drainage channel together with the wall of the vat.

40. (new) The draining unit according to claim 24, wherein the element is associated with at least one holding device to lock said element in an open position; the holding device comprising a lower portion forming a base and being engaged with a member of the latching means interlocked with the wall of the vat, and an upper portion carrying engagement means for engaging the member of the latching means.

41. (new) The draining unit according to claim 40, wherein the engagement means comprises a retaining pin mounted movably in the upper portion of the holding device and equipped with means for latching said pin in a retracted position for retaining the element, and with a resilient means which urges said retaining pin into a stretched, releasing position.

42. (new) The draining unit according to claim 24, wherein the element is associated with at least one holding

device to lock said element in an open position; the holding device comprising a supporting structure extending above said element, bearing on the internal wall of the vat, and having a catch means which comes into engagement at the side edge which is not interlocked with the wall by the pivot connection, and is lifted off the wall when the drainage channel in question is opened.

43. (new) The draining unit according to claim 24, wherein the element is held in the open position by a holding device common to a plurality of elements; the holding device comprising a supporting member in the form of an elongated element with curvature substantially similar to that of the internal wall of the vat and provided with feet designed to come to bear on the internal wall, and further equipped with a plurality of catch means designed to come into engagement at the side edges of the various elements in order to hold them in an open position.

44. (new) The draining unit according to claim 24, wherein each holding device comprises a magnetic stud fixed either movably or immovably on the internal wall.

45. (new) Press including a vat, provided over part of its internal wall with draining means extending parallel with the longitudinal direction of the vat and designed to recover juices from pressed materials and direct said juices towards collecting

and outlet orifices, wherein the draining means comprises draining units according to claim 24.